

IN THE CLAIMS

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A bracket for use in ~~operatively coupling~~ a new
building panel to a structure, having at least one existing building panel with an
outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated,
5 alternating peaks and valleys, and ~~secured to a frame member by~~ at least one existing
fastener, the bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end portions,
opposite end portions and a length extending between said opposite end
portions; said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members
10 being shaped and sized to marry at the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys
along the outwardly facing surface of the ~~at least one existing building panel~~
when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and generally perpendicular to,
the alternating peaks and valleys of the existing building panel; and

15 a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end portions
of said forward and rearward wall members;

said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so that they
define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of the bracket;
said channel being sized and shaped to substantially enclose the at least one
20 existing fastener.

Claim 2 (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall
members are spaced in a substantially parallel relationship with one another.

1 Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward,
rearward and top wall members are comprised of a ~~substantial~~substantially insulative
material.

5 Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is
shaped and sized to substantially and simultaneously enclose a plurality of existing
fasteners that are arranged in a generally linear relationship with one
another~~simultaneously~~.

10 Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is
shaped and sized to substantially enclose and engage the at least one existing fastener
in a manner that such that the bracket is substantially prevents prevented said bracket
from moving in a generally parallel fashion ~~movement~~ with respect to the at least one
existing building panel.

15 Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

20 Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the lower end
portions of said forward and rearward wall portions are shaped ~~provided with a shape~~
~~and height~~ so that a substantial portion of the lower end portions of said forward and
rearward wall portions engage the outwardly facing surface of the at least one existing
building panel.

25 Claim 9 (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top
wall members are positioned with respect to one another to provide the bracket with a
generally U-shaped cross-section.

1 Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method of retrofitting at least one new building
panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building
panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by
elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with at
least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

5 providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall
members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top
wall member; and

10 providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward
and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at
least one bracket and is sized and shaped to substantially enclose said at least
one existing fastener;

15 ~~providing shaping and sizing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall~~
members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and
valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when
said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and generally perpendicular to, the
alternating peaks and valleys ~~with a profile to marry a profile of the at least one~~
existing building panel;

20 aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the
profile of ~~said~~ the at least one existing building panel and the at least one existing
fastener is substantially enclosed within said channel;

25 ~~substantially enclosing said at least one existing fastener within said channel;~~

positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least

one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with

the at least one new fastener.

Claim 11 (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of forming said bracket from a substantially insulative material.

Claim 12 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are positioned in a substantially parallel relationship with one another.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of disposing a layer of insulative material between the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein a plurality of existing fasteners, which are generally, linearly arranged with respect to one another, are enclosed within said channel and engage said bracket in a manner that substantially prevents movement of said bracket along the lengths of the elongated, alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel.

Claim 16 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the bracket is coupled to the at least one existing building panel using only the at least one new fastener used to secure the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member.

Claim 17 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said channel is sized and shaped to substantially enclose the at least one existing fastener such that said bracket

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is substantially prevented from parallel movement with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

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Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said bracket is provided with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

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